U.S. Senator S. I. Hayakawa

California

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STATEMENT BY U. S. SENATOR S. I. HAYAKAWA BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON U. S. FOREIGN POLICY

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Mr. Secretary, I have many questions for you but I would like to make a few general comments first.

Obviously, the AWACS issue weighs heavily on my mind as well as on the minds of my colleagues. One of the things that bothers me about this issue is the context in which we are considering the arms sale package.

I have recently returned from a trip to Southeast Asia. This followed hearings held before East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee of this Committee, during which we heard testimony from Administration policy makers on the political, military and economic aspects of U. S. relations with ASEAN. There was a consensus during this testimony that ASEAN was of increasing importance to the U. S. because of its strategic location, vast natural resources, and tremendous economic potential.

My personal observations in Southeast Asia confirm this assessment. I was impressed by the rapid strides being made in economic development and the dynamic leadership of the ASEAN nations. I was also heartened by the fact that while newspapers in the U. S. have been complaining that President Reagan has no foreign policy, every official in the ASEAN nations plus Hong Kong saw in this administration a strong foreign policy.

They are looking to us for leadership; I would like to make sure they were not disappointed.

If we are going to make ASEAN the focal point of our foreign policy in Southeast Asia, it is obviously imperative that we consult closely with them and attempt to coordinate our approaches with theirs. I know that you share this view, as evidenced by your attendance at the July conference at the United Nations on Kampuchea, and your earlier meeting with ASEAN leaders in Manila.

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During my trip, however, I became troubled by the concerns expressed to me by several heads of state and foreign ministers -- concerns which indicate that they do not agree with our approaches to some critical issues. For example, some leaders have grave reservations about your plans to sell arms to China. As you know, some of these countries have historic reasons to fear Chinese expansion, and some have been fighting insurgencies led by Chinese living in these countries and supported by arms and propaganda from China. To them, China is more to be feared in the long run than Vietnam.

(1) While ASEAN agrees with the U. S. that Vietnam must withdraw its forces and puppet regime from Kampuchea, they are most reluctant to follow any policy which would allow the hated Khmer Rouge (Democratic Kampuchea) to regain power. Since the Khmer Rouge is by far the strongest of the opposition groups, how can this be avoided?

EA clear S/P, H,

I understand it is your policy to isolate Vietnam economically and politically, so as to force it to withdraw from Kampuchea. While I can see the logic of this approach, some ASEAN leaders appear to favor a more conciliatory policy toward Vietnam. Their argument is that isolation only makes Vietnam more dependent on the Soviet Union, and they cite evidence that Vietnam is not all that happy with its Russian embrace.

(2) In sum, there would seem to be important differences between some members of ASEAN and current administration policy. I would welcome your comments on these issues, and your assessment of their significance as regards our relations with ASEAN, and China, and the resolution of the Kampuchean and Vietnam problems. (3) I would also welcome an update on the proposed sale of arms to China, and the corollary consideration of planes to Taiwan. I feel strongly that the Administration should make a favorable decision on the sale to Taiwan, and that our long-standing friends there should not suffer as a result of our expanding relations with China.

EA clear S/P, PM, P, H

Now Mr. Secretary, I have been speaking in generalities, and I do welcome any comments or thoughts you may have. But before I do that, there is a very specific technical concern I have. As you know, I have been corresponding with you about the problems in

our Tactical Air Control System. It is my feeling that unless these deficiencies are corrected soon, the benefits in deploying AWACS anywhere in the world are reduced. Mr. Secretary, I continue to look forward to an answer to my letter to you on this subject. I would appreciate an early reply from you on this matter.

PM clear NEA, H

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